## KWIB Kentucky Workforce Investment Board

For a 21st Century Workforce

## KWIB NEWS

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MARCH 2002

## **Board Adopts Goal with Focus on Youth**

At the KWIB meeting on February 14,

the board voted to adopt a fifth goal for its strategic plan targeted at youth. Goal five focuses on the need "to increase coordination, communication and resources to provide universal access to quality workforce development services for Kentucky's youth." The goal fills a gap in the strategic plan and recognizes the importance of youth services in the workforce development system.

The Youth Committee has engaged in intense discussion over the past

several months to arrive at a focus on

resource management. The strategies developed by the committee to support its goal call for conducting asset/ resource mapping of youth workforce development services. The critical step after the resource mapping is a communications strategy to make everyone aware of the workforce development

resources available to youth.

The committee also hopes to collect information on best practices from youth programs across the country.

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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

APRIL 17 10:00 – 1:00
REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE—
NORTHERN KY / TENCO
NORTHERN KY ADD OFFICE
FLORENCE

# MAY 8 & 9 KWIB QUARTERLY MEETING UNIVERSITY PLAZA HOTEL BOWLING GREEN

JUNE 19 10:00 — 1:00
REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE—
PURCHASE-PENNYRILE /
GREEN RIVER
KENTUCKY DAM VILLAGE
STATE PARK

#### AUGUST 8 KWIB QUARTERLY MEETING BARDSTOWN

OCTOBER 16 10:00 – 1:00
REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE
EKCEP
JENNY WILEY STATE PARK

## **Local Chairs Focus on Challenges for 2002**

The local workforce investment board chairs and directors gathered in Lexington on March 13 for their semi-annual meeting with KWIB chair Ken Oilschlager. In addition to hearing updates from each local area, participants engaged in a lengthy



Susan Craft, director, Bluegrass WIB; Wade Bailey, vice-chair, Bluegrass WIB; and Nicky Rapier, chair Lincoln Trail WIB

discussion of some of the challenges the KWIB has identified in its annual report to the governor.

The implementation of the Employ Kentucky Operating System (EKOS) was seen as the most significant challenge facing the local areas. Directors and chairs expressed a great deal of frustration with the many delays in development of EKOS. Nicky Rapier, who serves as vice-chair of the KWIB Local Liaison Committee, noted that the state board is equally frustrated with EKOS. "The Local Liaison committee has made EKOS its top priority," Rapier reported. "We will do everything we can to get this issue resolved."

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## **For Your Information**

#### **Annual Report to the Governor**

The KWIB reviewed the annual report at its February 14 meeting and approved the contents. Staff is finalizing the design of the document and the report will be presented to the Governor at the conclusion of the legislative session in April. The report will also be distributed to local workforce investment boards and partner agencies.

#### Kentucky's Workforce Tool Kit

The Office of Workforce Partnerships has produced a directory of public resources for employers called Kentucky's Workforce Tool Kit. The Tool Kit brings together contact information for training, hiring, layoffs, and organizational development.

The Tool Kit is available on the Cabinet for Workforce Development Web site at www.kycwd. org or by contacting Cassandra Bagley at 502-564-6606 or cassandra.bagley@mail.state.ky.us.

#### **Performance Evaluation Contract**

The Department for Training and ReEmployment has contracted with Charter Oaks, a workforce development consulting firm, to develop an evaluation system for One-Stop system-wide accountability. The consultants have already begun a series of meetings with stakeholders across the state and are scheduled to make their recommendations by the end of the fiscal year.

Funding for this contract will come from the incentive funds the state received for exceeding the negotiated WIA performance levels during Program Year 1999.



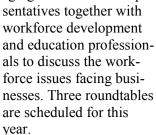
#### **Local Business Outreach Pilots**

Under the direction of the KWIB Business and Industry Committee, a pilot project will begin in July in three local areas. The pilot projects will make it easier for businesses to access workforce development services. The major partners in the local pilots will be the One-Stops, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and the Cabinet for Workforce Development. The projects will use a

cross-agency approach—training staff to identify needs and then put a service package together using various agency resources. A particular focus will be on serving small—and medium-sized businesses.

#### **Regional Roundtables**

The KWIB will continue its series of regional forums in 2002 with the goal of bringing local business repre-



On April 17 the TENCO

and Northern Kentucky WIA's will host a forum in Florence. A roundtable for Purchase-Pennyrile and Green River area businesses will be held at Kentucky Dam Village State Park on June 19. And the final roundtable of the year is scheduled for October 16 in Jenny Wiley State Park for businesses in the EKCEP workforce investment area.

For more information, contact your local director or Vicky Nicholas in the Office of Workforce Partnerships at 502-564-6606 or vickyb.nicholas@mail.state.ky.us.

#### **Kentucky Employability Certificate**

The KWIB in conjunction with ACT, Inc., will become the major sponsor of the Kentucky Employability Certificate, designed to document skills in applied math, reading, and locating information. The certificate is based on ACT's WorkKeys system and has been endorsed by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management, the Cabinet for Workforce Development and the Department for Adult Education and Literacy. Kentucky will be one of the first in the nation to issue such a certificate.

Training for local staff on the WorkKeys system and the Employability Certificate will be conducted throughout the summer with an official roll-out to business and industry planned for the fall.

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### **WIA Youth Summit**

In November 2001, DTR convened a statewide Youth Summit in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The purpose of the summit was not only to provide technical assistance on youth issues, but also to present outstanding youth programs currently conducted in Kentucky and the region. One hundred ninety-seven (197) stakeholders attended including local board and youth council members, service providers, members of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board, staff from the local workforce investment areas, Department for Training and ReEmployment staff, and representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor.

In order to meet the challenges of serving eligible youth throughout the commonwealth, several universal concerns and needs were identified:

- 1) Resource mapping and strategic planning participants agreed that resource mapping is one of the most critical pieces in providing community-wide, year-round youth services in the most efficient manner. Resource mapping will identify what services and resources are available in the community and which are not being provided.
- 2) Coordination of funding and services participants acknowledged the need to seek



Youth Summit Participants

funding sources outside the Workforce Investment Act youth funds. In order to meet the needs of *all* disadvantaged youth in Kentucky's 120 counties, greater leveraging of resources must occur.

3) Continual statewide meeting and summits - participants expressed the urgent desire to continue the forums to exchange information and provide technical assistance as they move forward in meeting the increasingly complex programmatic and financial demands of serving youth in the local communities.

### **Conference Planned for Local Board Members**

The board is convinced that a

conference to enhance the skills

of the local boards is vital if are to

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have achieved in implementing

the Workforce Investment Act.

The Kentucky Workforce Investment Board is planning a conference for state and local board members to be held Nov. 13 and 14, 2002 in Lexington. The conference will address some of the

needs of boards for training and professional development.

A planning team for the conference will be established in the next few weeks. The team will have representation of state and local board members as well as state and local staff. Given the current budget

situation, financing the conference could be a challenge, but the KWIB will proceed with the planning.

The board is convinced that a conference to enhance the skills of the local boards is vital if we are to build upon the successes we have achieved in implementing the Workforce Investment Act. The KWIB's position is supported by a recently published report from the National Leadership

Institute for Workforce Excellence. The Institute's 2nd Annual WIB Survey noted that in spite of the progress local WIBs have made, the overwhelming majority still feel the need for organizational technical assistance and training in strategic planning.

By hosting an annual conference focused on the development of the local Workforce Investment Boards, the state board hopes to meet the needs of the WIBs and help take Kentucky's workforce development system to the next level.

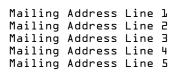


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Gov Patton spoke at the Open House of the Central Kentucky Job Center on Industry Road in Lexington on March 11, 2002.





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#### **Accessibility Contract**

The WIA Advisory Committee's Accessibility Task Group is overseeing the implementation of plans to make the One-Stops more accessible to persons with disabilities, older workers and limited English-speaking individuals. As a result of this project, each comprehensive One-Stop center will have at least one accessible workstation in its resource room. After an inventory and analysis process, the Human Resource Development Institute at UK is scheduled to compile a list of recommended accessibility hardware and software by the end of March. Based on this list, equipment and software will be purchased.

Sensitivity training for One-Stop center staff, in a train-the-trainer format, is also well under development by the Access Center of Louisville. This

training is scheduled to be delivered in May 2002.

#### **Labor Market Information Survey**

The UK/UofL team conducting two labor market surveys for the Cabinet for Workforce Development and the KWIB presented preliminary data at the KWIB's meeting in February.

The research team has been pleased with the number of people willing to participate in the phone survey of households. Dr. Mark Berger told the KWIB that with the excellent response rate he is confident the team will be able to build models for underemployment at the county level.

Response to the business survey has been disappointing. The team is working with local WIB directors on a third mailing to Kentucky businesses in hopes of increasing the number of responses.



www.eworkforce.org/careerkit/



www.servicelocator.org



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